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## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** July 24, 2025

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator  
Ashley Harden, General Counsel  
Georgia Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer  
John Dupnik, Deputy Executive Administrator,  
Water Science and Conservation

**FROM:** Richard A. Wade, Deputy Executive Administrator,  
Texas Geographic Information Office  
Sam Hermitte, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator,  
Water Science and Conservation

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to the Sanborn Contract for the Texas Water Data Hub

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute a contract amendment with Sanborn to increase the contract amount for a total cost not to exceed \$490,000 for the continued development and implementation of the Texas Water Data Hub.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Texas Water Data Hub (Hub) is an intuitive system to index, document, search, and access Texas water data. The underlying motivation for developing the Hub is the belief that good decision making is based on good data. By creating a catalog of datasets with standardized documentation that follows the principles of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data, the Hub increases access to and usability of Texas water data. The Hub partners with organizations working across the state to support users in finding and accessing data needed for decision making at an organizational, local, or individual scale. Users can find and download data ranging topics, such as Groundwater Availability Models, flood high water marks, or water quality sample data from partner organizations like the U.S. Geological Survey, San Antonio River Authority, or the City of Boerne.

Development of the Hub began in 2020 with a focus on “human-centered design” to ensure that the platform is tailored to the needs of Texas water data producers and users. In 2022, efforts shifted to application development, and a beta version of the Hub was launched to

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L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member  
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

the public in early 2023. The data catalog that serves as the centerpiece of the Hub is built on collaborative partnerships with entities that publish water data and voluntarily contribute standardized documentation about those resources. As of June 2025, the Hub has documented over 190 data resources and 120 applications from 28 participating organizations. As partnerships with data producers are the cornerstone of the Hub's long-term success, continued application development and enhancements focus on making contributions to the catalog as intuitive and straightforward as possible in preparation for launch of version 1.0 of the Hub.

### **KEY ISSUES**

The Texas Water Data Hub utilizes an open-source data management system called Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network (CKAN). CKAN was selected as the preferred data management system based on the flexibility that it affords in designing a catalog-based platform and on its widespread use for similar platforms at the state and federal levels. The U.S. government's open data site (data.gov), the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program, and state hubs in New Mexico and California are also built using CKAN, among others.

CKAN is a specialized platform that requires in-depth knowledge and unique skill sets for application development. To continue buildout of the Hub platform, a request for qualifications for services to support CKAN development was released in 2023, and a two-year contract in the amount of \$330,000 was awarded to Sanborn in 2024. This funding will be fully expended by the end of Fiscal Year 2025, though the contractor's expertise continues to be needed to augment and support agency staff with Hub buildout as we work towards the 1.0 system release in 2026. Key components of this development work include analyzing data and pre-populating fields as part of required metadata documentation, thereby reducing the workload associated with contributing to the Hub catalog.

The total additional amount needed in contracted support to reach the 1.0 system release in Fiscal Year 2026 is \$360,000. In Fiscal Year 2026, only \$160,000 in General Revenue will be available to support ongoing development of the Texas Water Data Hub. The current contract authorized an original amount not to exceed \$330,000. This request is to provide the Executive Administrator with the authority to spend an additional \$160,000 not to exceed a total of \$490,000 on the contract. If additional funding becomes available to support the contract and complete phase 1.0 of the Hub, we will return to the board to seek further authorization.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends approval to amend the contract with Sanborn for a total amount of \$490,000 to support the continued development and implementation of the Texas Water Data Hub.